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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cincinnati Police Department's Canine Squad Honored for First Place Ranking in U.S. Police Canine Association National Competition

Today, Mayor Charlie Luken presented a proclamation recognizing the Cincinnati Police Department's Canine Squad for achieving first place at the U.S. Police Canine Association (U.S.P.C.A.) national field trials held in New Jersey earlier this month. The U.S.P.C.A. describes its national trials as "the testing and ranking of the best of the best."

This year's competition was held October 5-10 with 122 teams competing in obedience, agility, article search, suspect search and apprehension. CPD's Canine Squad's combined team score was 2664.67 of a possible 2800, earning them first place.

Their individual rankings were noteworthy as well:

- Specialist David Kennedy with Scout and Officer John Neal with Maximus tied for 9th;
- Officer Anthony White with Dakota came in 13th;
- Specialist David Dougherty with Nico finished 15th; and
- Officer Tim Pappas with Laser traveled to the trials as an alternate.

The Cincinnati Police Department is proud of this distinction earned by its Canine Squad. Their first place ranking reflects the dedication and training these officers have invested in their work.

The officers and their canine partners have been working together only two years or less. Maximus, Dakota, Nico and Laser paired with their human partners in October 2001. Scout became Specialist Kennedy's partner last year after the retirement of his first canine partner.

All ten officers and canines of the Canine Squad train continuously in the skills used in their work, such as tracking, building search, article search, suspect apprehension, obedience and handler protection. Canine teams assist in high-risk search situations. With mutual aid agreements, Cincinnati Police Department's Canine Squad cooperates to provide support for other police agencies in Hamilton County.

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